

**2008 SUMMER RESIDENTIAL GOVERNOR'S SCHOOLS (SRGS)
ACADEMIC PROGRAMS AND MENTORSHIPS
GENERAL INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS**

Dear Student,

Welcome to the 2008 Summer Residential Governor's Schools application process. Any student who considers himself/herself eligible may complete this application. Please review the information carefully and speak with your school counselor or gifted education coordinator to ensure that you meet all division and state deadlines.

The application process is a joint effort involving the student, the local school, the school division or the private school region, and the Department of Education (VDOE). This document contains general program information about the Summer Residential Governor's Schools. The application contains parts of the application that you must complete, and parts to be completed by teachers and your school counselor. **Teachers and school counselors may access the forms they need from this same site.** All parts of the application are available in a variety of formats, as appropriate, at the following Web site:

www.doe.virginia.gov/VDOE/Instruction/Govschools/SRGS

Your application has information sheets that you should give to the two teachers/adults whom you are asking to provide recommendations and to the guidance office for other data. The actual forms that they submit are not found in the application. Those forms are available at the Web site above.

NOTE: Students may only apply for one program at a time and may only attend one Summer Residential Governor's School OR Governor's Foreign Language Academy during their high school careers.

All applications must be printed and signed by the student and parent/legal guardian in order to be considered. It is important to note that incomplete applications will be returned to the gifted education coordinator and may not be considered. Please review the information in this guide carefully and consult your school counselor for deadlines.

Good Luck!

Virginia Governor's Schools
Office of Middle/High School Instruction
Division of Instruction
Virginia Department of Education (VDOE)

NOTE: The Summer Residential Governor's School for Visual and Performing Arts (VPA), Summer Residential Governor's School Mentorships in Engineering (NASA.NIA) and Marine Science (VIMS), as well as the Governor's Foreign Language Academies have separate applications and timelines. The 2008 SRGS VPA and the SRGS Mentorship application are available from the Web site provided above. The 2008 Governor's Foreign Language application is available at the following Web site:
www.doe.virginia.gov/VDOE/Instruction/Language/GAindex.html.

APPLICATION DEADLINES

SUGGESTED DEADLINES		
DATE COMPLETED	DATE	ACTIVITY
	October 2007	Applications made available by the VDOE via Internet.
	January 7, 2008	Suggested deadline for student to submit pages ACAD 1-4 to the secondary school counselor at his/her high school.
	January 7, 2008	Suggested deadline for Academic/Mentorship Teacher Recommendations A and B to submit rating scales and narratives to the secondary school counselor at the student's local school.
	Early February 2008	Suggested deadline for school principal or designee to submit completed applications to the school division/regional selection committee.
	February 20, 2008, 5 p.m. postmark	Deadline for the school division/regional selection committee to mail applications and to send the nomination report form electronically to the VDOE.
	Mid-April 2008	Status notification will be made available to all nominees and school division or private school gifted education coordinators.

Please add specific dates provided by your school counselor or gifted education coordinator for your reference later in the process.

NOTE: The Department of Education does not intervene in deadline disputes between students and public school divisions or private schools.

**2008 SUMMER RESIDENTIAL GOVERNOR'S SCHOOLS (SRGS)
ACADEMIC PROGRAMS AND MENTORSHIPS
GENERAL INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS**

The Summer Residential Governor's Schools (SRGS) academic programs and mentorships are month-long residential programs for tenth- and eleventh-grade gifted students in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The goal of each Governor's School is to provide those who attend opportunities for intellectual as well as social and emotional growth. In the company of dedicated, highly skilled professionals representing a variety of careers, selected students are encouraged to establish and fulfill their academic goals. The programs are housed on various campuses throughout the Commonwealth and are funded by the Commonwealth of Virginia, local school divisions, and private schools.

The SRGS academic and mentorship programs provide intellectually challenging and enriching experiences within a community of mutual support, respect, and dedication for a limited number of academically/intellectually gifted, current year tenth- and eleventh-grade high school students. Each college-based program provides a curriculum that integrates subject matter from various disciplines around its overall program theme. Each mentorship program provides challenging work experiences relevant to the mentorship site.

Participants in the Summer Residential Governor's Schools represent the diverse geographical areas of the Commonwealth; however, they will have in common their desire to explore academic pursuits at a level not available in the local school division, or private school. A typical student schedule involves concentrated study in a particular field during the day. Activities may include seminars, special interest groups, independent study, and laboratory or field/site work. Students in both small-group and individual activities will share their investigations and research with university faculty, Governor's School faculty/staff, and fellow students. Evening and weekend activities that are integral to the goals of the program include recreation, field trips, and special events such as concerts, lectures by visiting scholars, career information, dramatic productions, movies, student performances, and time for students to collect thoughts and participate in informal discussions.

Students in the academic program will attend classes specific to their interest area(s) as well as interdisciplinary classes and workshops with students from the SRGS for Visual and Performing Arts. Field trips, recreational activities, and sports activities, as well as free time, are built into the student's schedule. These programs are some of the most rewarding and enriching experiences available to high school students anywhere, since they require students to set their own learning goals and structure their own evaluation standards. One of the most valued acquisitions will be the friendships that Governor's School students develop and that will continue to evolve throughout time.

CRITERIA FOR APPLICANTS

Any student who wishes to complete an application may do so. Schools are strongly encouraged to review the selection criteria with students and to assist them in recognizing the competition they face at the state level. The school must provide an application to any student who meets the eligibility criteria listed below.

- In the **academic and mentorship** programs, a student may have been identified as gifted. *The Regulations Governing Educational Services for Gifted Students* (8 VAC 20-40-50, Criteria for Screening and Identification) define the areas in which students may be identified as gifted. If a student has been identified through the local division identification process, the score on the norm-referenced achievement or aptitude/ability measure **used in the identification process** may be used as one of the required tests, regardless of age. A second required score must come from a norm-referenced achievement, or aptitude/ability measure **administered within the past three years**. A student must rank at or above the 90th percentile on recent standardized test measures.
- A student shall be neither a current applicant to a 2008 Governor's Foreign Language Academy or other Summer Residential Governor's School, nor a former participant in these programs. **Students may only attend one of these programs during his/her high school career.**
- A student who participates in one of the 18 Academic-Year Governor's School or has participated in one of the 20 Summer Regional Governor's Schools **MAY** apply.
- A student shall be genuinely interested in attending the Governor's School and have the emotional maturity, stability, and self-discipline to live away from home for an extended period.
- A professional who knows the current academic ability and strength of the student in the selected area shall recommend the student.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS AND DATES

- Agriculture (AG) (4 weeks) June 29 – July 26, 2008
Program begins at 2 p.m.
- Humanities (HUM) (4 weeks) June 29 - July 26, 2008
Program begins at 1 p.m.
- Life Sciences and Medicine (LSM) (4 weeks) June 22 – July 18, 2008
Program begins at 12 p.m.
- Mathematics, Science, and Technology (MST) (4 weeks) July 6 - August 2, 2008
Program begins at 2 p.m.

These programs accommodate approximately 490 students at these locations:

Program	Location	Student Capacity
Agriculture (AG)	Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University	100
Humanities (HUM)	University of Richmond	200
Life Sciences and Medicine (LSM)	Virginia Commonwealth University	30
Mathematics, Science, Technology (MST)	Lynchburg College	160

MENTORSHIP PROGRAMS

Some students will prefer to apply for one of the two mentorships available with the Summer Residential Governor's Schools. These programs offer individualized student assignment to one or more researchers/graduate students, or engineers at the two sites. Selection is based on the match between mentors available during a specific summer and the skills, interests, and experiences of the individual student. **Students accepting mentorships, and those in LSM, must have access to a personal computer for use during Governor's School. School divisions will be asked to provide computers to students, as needed.**

Governor's School for Engineering (NASA.NIA)
NASA/Langley Research Center and the National Institute of Aerospace

(4 weeks) June 22 – July 19, 2008
Program begins at 3 p.m.

Governor's School for Marine Science (VIMS)
Virginia Institute for Marine Science

(4 weeks) June 22 – July 19, 2008
Program begins at 3 p.m.

NASA.NIA and VIMS participants are housed at Christopher Newport University and are transported to the mentorship sites daily.

Students' Guide to Academic Schools and Mentorships

	AG	HUM	LSM	MST	NASA.NIA	VIMS
Student Area(s) of Interest	Agribusiness	Anthropology	Biology	Anatomy and Physiology	Aeronautical Engineering	Coastal Law
	Biotechnology	Economics	Chemistry	Astronomy	Computer Science – Advanced	Fisheries Science
	Environmental Science and Its Implications	History	Computer Science Applications	Computer Programming	Electrical Engineering	Marine Resources Management
	International Trade	Literature	Environmental Science	Geology	Materials Science	Oceanography
	Resource Management	Media	Forensics	Hydrology	Mechanical Engineering	Wetlands Ecology
		Philosophy	Medicine	Hypermedia		
		Political Science	Physics	Physics		
		Psychology		Upper Level Mathematics		
		Sociology				

PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Agriculture (AG)

The Governor's School for Agriculture offers an interdisciplinary curriculum of issues, topics, and challenges pertinent to the field of agriculture in its broadest sense. The program emphasizes the use of field experiences to investigate and research diverse topics related to environmental implications, resource management, biotechnology, political and economic implications of domestic and international trade, and the nature and structures of support systems within agribusiness. Students conduct field-based research using extensive contemporary data analysis and application methods. The program accepts a maximum of 100 students.

Students have access to a variety of innovative equipment, laboratories, and field sites at Virginia Tech and in the extended Blacksburg area. Resources from the agribusiness community are incorporated into field experiences and investigations. The primary goal of the agriculture program is to increase students' understanding and appreciation of the infrastructure and implications of Virginia's largest industry, its people, products, and opportunities. For more information, visit the Governor's School for Agriculture home page at www.gsa.vt.edu or AOL instant messenger GovSchoolforAg.

Humanities (HUM)

The SRGS for Humanities program at the University of Richmond, in residence and curricular collaboration with the Governor's School for Visual and Performing Arts, offers a broad-based, interdisciplinary presentation of courses related to the program's theme. Coursework offers students opportunities to explore how modern society requires, encourages, and restricts individuals as they seek realization of their creative potential. Through the humanities program, students explore integrated disciplines in the arts, history, literature, philosophy, anthropology, political science, economics, sociology, psychology, and media.

Students obtain a better understanding of themselves, their future roles, and the effect of their voices on society and the world through reading, discussion, seminars, and lectures. The primary purpose of the Summer Residential Governor's School for Humanities is to provide an enriching, intellectual experience that stimulates gifted students to use their imaginations, and to think more creatively and productively. Writing activities, group projects, guest speakers, and field trips serve to integrate knowledge from many disciplines to a greater extent than is typically found in traditional educational programs.

Humanities applicants should have a solid background in American history and literature. Students selected for the program will choose a specific area of study related to the program theme. Approximately 200 students are accepted. For more information, visit the Governor's School for Humanities home page at www.richmond.edu/govschool, via e-mail at govschool@richmond.edu, or AOL instant messenger VAGovSchool.

Life Sciences and Medicine (LSM)

Capitalizing on the latest developments in the life sciences and medicine, the Summer Residential Governor's School for Life Sciences and Medicine has been designed to heighten understanding and appreciation of the relationship between research in life sciences and clinical practices and treatments in medicine. This residential program, housed on Virginia Commonwealth University's

academic campus, will accommodate 30 students. The format centers on the theme "Scale," as topics in the life sciences will be surveyed from the molecular to the systems levels. Students will be taught by high school science teachers, professors from the life sciences, and clinicians or researchers from a variety of laboratories and hospitals from VCU's medical college on the MCV campus.

The program emphasizes the multidisciplinary nature of life sciences. Students' extensive exposure to molecular biology, clinical biology, and environmental sciences over the first three weeks forms the foundation for completion of a group project in the fourth week. The curriculum consists of academically challenging lectures, laboratory, and field experiences provided by preeminent VCU clinical or research faculty, augmented with thought-provoking clinical and research experiences. A series of extra-curricular events including volunteering at MCV hospitals, career and personal development seminars, and diverse cultural and social activities enhance the students' learning experiences.

The types of students best suited for this program are those with an interest in science (biology/life sciences, forensics, environmental science, chemistry, physics, and computer science) and curiosity about the effects science exerts on the fields of medicine. Students who remain undecided about a medical career are welcome as well as those who are confident that careers in medicine are part of their future. Through the planned academic and extra-curricular experiences, students will experience the multitude of current and emerging career choices in the life sciences. Students with open minds about their career expectations often garner the most benefits from this program. This program is open to both current tenth- and eleventh-grade students. For more information, review the program's Web site: www.vcu.edu/lifesci/community/governor.html. **Students must have access to a personal computer for use during this program. School divisions will be asked to provide laptops for their students, as needed.**

Mathematics, Science, and Technology (MST)

The program for Mathematics, Science, and Technology at Lynchburg College provides students with broad interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary experiences designed to challenge students. The general goals of the school will be to encourage students to explore how mathematics, science, and technology affect their personal understanding of the world and society. Approximately 160 students will be accepted.

The program requires students to work in small groups, identifying research or field projects, and designing strategies to complete those projects. Results will be shared in a series of colloquia. Students will also work in small groups to study and discuss the philosophy and interplay among mathematics, science, technology, and society. These groups will identify important issues and prepare position papers addressing the issues that they identify. Each group will share its position in a "Symposium on Science and Society," which will be a major part of the Governor's School Teacher Recognition evening in the middle of the program. For more information, students may contact the director via e-mail at cline@lynchburg.edu.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

MENTORSHIPS

Engineering – NASA.NIA

The Virginia Governor's School hosted at NASA/Langley Research Center and the National Institute of Aerospace is a residential summer program designed to provide challenging, real-life work experiences for not more than 14 intellectually gifted high school students. Beginning with the 2008 summer program, students will be working in concert with NASA mentors and staff from the National Institute of Aeronautics (NIA), which supports NASA's educational outreach.

NASA policies require that students working at its facilities be sixteen years of age by June 22, 2008, and be citizens of the United States in order to participate. Students are selected from among qualified candidates by the NASA coordinator, the site director, and staff from NIA.

Each student is paired with a NASA.NIA scientist or engineer who serves as a mentor and is responsible for designing engineering and/or research experiences with the student. The NASA.NIA coordinator carefully selects NASA.NIA mentors on the basis of their willingness and ability to serve as positive role models, to develop engaging learning experiences, and to relate to gifted high school students. Mentors, who participate in orientation sessions in order to become acquainted with the dynamics and needs of gifted students, typically work in the following disciplines:

Aeronautical Engineering
Electrical Engineering
Mechanical Engineering

Computer Science
Materials Science

Students work in labs and other facilities from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. each day, five days each week, throughout the four-week program. The site and program coordinators arrange special tours and lectures on a weekly basis in order to acquaint students with as many of the research facilities and activities at NASA/Langley Research Center as possible.

New to the program in 2008 will be students' opportunities to share educational experiences and research across the NASA.NIA systems, which includes the Ames, Dryden Glenn, Jet Propulsion, Johnson Space, Kennedy, Marshall, and Johnson Research Centers. Students' research endeavors and final presentation will be shared through a variety of electronic media throughout

the NASA network with audiences drawn from the different research centers and their fellow Governor's School students. **Students must have access to a personal computer for use during this program. School divisions will be asked to provide laptops for their students, as needed.**

Marine Science - VIMS

The Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS), the Graduate School of Marine Science of the College of William and Mary, encompasses the study of biological, chemical, geological and physical oceanography, wetlands ecology, fisheries science, coastal law, marine resource management, and advisory services. Each summer, graduate students and professors conduct research and field studies in the estuaries and tidal basins, and of the Chesapeake Bay.

The VIMS program director and the site director select students to participate in the Governor's School for Marine Science; these students become members of one of the existing research teams, with the team leader serving as the student's mentor. At the conclusion of the four-week program, each student delivers an oral presentation about his/her research activities. The audience for these presentations consists of VIMS mentors and research staff, and other Governor's School students. In the past, the program has accepted not more than six intellectually gifted high school students.

Mentorship activities and responsibilities typically include a combination of the following: field and vessel work; collection, preparation and interpretation of data; library research; computer analysis; and laboratory studies. For more information, visit the VIMS Governor's School home page at www.vims.edu/adv/gs. **Students must have access to a personal computer for use during this program. School divisions will be asked to provide laptops for their students, as needed.**

NOTE: Students nominated for the NASA.NIA or VIMS mentorships must be able to demonstrate that they have used a research design such as the one required for entries to the Virginia Junior Academy of Science (VJAS) or the International Science and Engineering (ISEF) competitions. **Students are not required to have participated in those competitions;** however, at least one teacher recommendation must include evidence that the student understands and has used a comprehensive research design consistent with VJAS/ISEF standards. Consult the following Web sites for more information about VJAS and ISEF, their research, components, or opportunities: www.vacadsci.org/vjas-1.htm or www.nsf.gov/od/lpa/nsf50/nsfoutreach/htm/part_z2/part_sci.htm.

STUDENT SELECTION PROCESS

Students undergo a rigorous selection process that begins in October with the application process. Although open to all tenth- and eleventh-grade students in the Commonwealth (including home-schooled, as well as out-of-state private school students whose parents reside in Virginia), each school division or private school region is limited to a specific number of nominees that may be sent forward for consideration. (Quotas for public and private school regions may be reviewed in the administrative guides available at the VDOE Web site www.doe.virginia.gov/VDOE/Instruction/Govschools/SRGS.) Students may be recommended by a teacher or may pursue the application process themselves.

Between October and December, students must complete the appropriate application, which requires a student-written essay; two teacher recommendations including rating scales and written narratives; and the collection of test data from the students' cumulative records. The forms for the teacher recommendations are specific: **Academic/Mentorship Teacher Recommendation A** must be an instructional professional in the student's area of interest who can assess his/her current abilities, preferably a teacher who has taught in the last year or is currently teaching the student in a course closely related to the selected program. **Academic/Mentorship Teacher Recommendation B** may be any adult (outside of the student's family) who currently serves or has served within the last calendar year as a teacher, sponsor, or mentor in the student's field of interest and who knows him /her well. Please review the criteria on pages ACAD-5 and ACAD-6 and MENTORSHIP-6 and MENTORSHIP-7 of the academic and mentorship applications.

NOTE: A separate mentorship application has been developed for the NASA.NIA and the VIMS programs. Please use the mentorship application to apply for either the NASA.NIA or VIMS programs.

By the end of January, the school division and private school regional committees meet to select the division nominees. Division and regional nominations are due to the VDOE in mid-February, with invitations extended to students offered in mid-April. Most programs operate during the month of July.

Acceptance and attendance at Governor's School is a month-long commitment. Careful consideration needs to be made of family needs and personal commitments prior to the submission of an application. Since spaces are highly competitive, students who can make a full commitment to the program are given highest priority. Leaves of absence are granted **ONLY** for family and/or medical

emergencies. Leaves of absence will be granted for the hospitalization, serious illness, or death of immediate family members, or the illness of the student.

STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

Students selected represent their school and school division or region. Each student acts as an ambassador of his/her area. Governor's School students are expected to display common courtesy and respect for fellow students at all times.

Failure to comply with any of the following standards will result in immediate dismissal from the program:

1. Students shall not possess or use alcohol or illegal drugs. (§ 4.1-305 and 18.2-248 *Code of Virginia*)
2. Students shall not smoke, use or possess any tobacco products. (§ 18.2-371.2 *Code of Virginia*)
3. Students shall not possess or use any kind of weapon.
4. Students shall not leave campus or designated areas at any time without permission.
5. Students shall not visit the residential areas of the opposite gender at any time, nor enter halls occupied by other groups.
6. Students shall not steal/borrow without the owner's permission.
7. Students shall not treat faculty, staff, presenters, students, or others on campus in a disrespectful manner.
8. Students shall not intentionally damage the property of others.
9. Students shall not commit any act of violence.
10. Students shall not bring a vehicle or ride in one unaccompanied by a staff member.

Dress Guidelines

To help ensure a respectful community of learners and an environment conducive to learning, the Governor's School establishes these guidelines for student dress:

- Clothing should be neat, comfortable, modest, and appropriate to the setting in which students will be working or studying.
- Students should avoid clothing that reveals midriffs, backs, or undergarments.
- Outdoor temperatures are usually warm so bring light, mostly casual clothing; however, the director will provide students with information about more formal activities.
- Air conditioning keeps academic spaces chilly, so warmer attire is recommended indoors.
- Shoes and shirts must be worn at all times.

Residence Halls

Roommate assignments are made very carefully to ensure that students meet as many fellow students as possible. Students will receive roommate contact information in June. Male and female students are housed in separate living spaces and visitation between rooms and halls is never permitted. Resident Advisors (RAs) live with students and are available at all times. Each program handbook will provide more specific information regarding the standards of conduct.

What to Bring

In addition to clothing, students are encouraged to bring the following items:

Alarm clocks	Irons	Radios, cameras
Bathrobe, shower shoes, towels and washcloths	Laundry products and clothes hangers	Quarters for laundry
Bedding for twin beds	Paper, pens, pencils	Swimsuits
Extension cords	Personal hygiene items	Umbrellas

The director at each Governor's School will provide a more specific list to students prior to the opening of each program.

What NOT to Bring

Student shall not bring the following items:

Alcoholic beverages	Computers – unless specifically required for the program	Televisions or DVD players
Bicycles, roller blades, or skateboards	Drugs – other than prescribed medication	Tobacco products
Candles or incense	Expensive jewelry or stereo equipment	Telephones, pagers, or wireless phones
Cars	Pets	Weapons, "look alikes" for theatre, or laser pointers

The director at each Governor's School will provide a more specific list to students prior to the opening of each program.

Visitation

With the understanding that one of the purposes of the school is to achieve a cohesive, self-contained environment in which students can study and come to know one another with a minimum of external distractions, family visits are limited to Parent Day. Non-family visitors may come on campus only with the family during that day.

At any time during the session, packages for students may be dropped off between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 p.m. at the Governor's School office. A member of the staff will deliver the package to the student as soon as possible.

Wireless Phone Policy

Each Governor's School seeks to promote community among its members, helping students discover the persons they are, not just the persons they are expected to be. This means fostering an environment with limited distractions. Over the past years, the University of Richmond and Lynchburg College have found that students appreciate the ability to concentrate on new relationships within the community and leave behind, if only for a brief time, the demands and interruptions that everyday life imposes. The administration, faculty, and staff of those larger programs have found that wireless phones impede the fundamental goals of the Governor's School experience. To that end, students who accept invitations to attend those programs are expected to respect our community formation process by leaving wireless phones at home. Policies of other Governor's Schools directors will be communicated with students' initial information packets. The Virginia Department of Education supports the director's decision whether or not to allow students to bring wireless phones to their specific programs.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What are the academic/artistic and social expectations for students?

Participants need to understand before they arrive that the primary purpose of the Governor's School is to offer them a challenging and enriching artistic/academic and social program. Each program will include clear expectations for students' homework assignments, papers, projects, and/or "work in progress" demonstrations. The majority of the student's day is structured with morning and afternoon classes, explorations, and evening events. Students are expected to take responsibility for their own learning by attending classes, completing assignments, participating in group study and practice, and being well prepared for study each day. This program expects students to be physically as well as mentally motivated to participate fully in both artistic/academic and social activities. It is imperative that students assess their own mental and physical health, as well as their motives for attending the Governor's School, before applying for this program. Faculty and staff are employed as mentors, teachers, and student/resident advisors. The school maintains a very low student to teacher ratio. However, the program is not able to make a one-to-one assignment of student to staff member. For that reason, students should be in good or excellent health, and/or able to demonstrate necessary self-discipline, and if necessary, to self-medicate.

How is the program administered?

The overall responsibility for the Summer Residential Governor's Schools rests with the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE). While the program is in session, the program and/or site director at each center has the responsibility for operating the specific program. The director's responsibility is to provide a challenging, academic program and to maintain an atmosphere conducive for participants to meet those challenges. The director possesses an understanding of gifted students and of programs for such high school students. All directors and staffs are dedicated to providing an educational opportunity for gifted students that is commensurate with the abilities and interests of those students and are eager to make students' experiences at Governor's School enjoyable and productive. Some of the faculty and staff are themselves former Governor's School participants.

What is the "typical" daily schedule?

Each day is filled with diverse activities and classes; the schedules vary from day to day, as well as from discipline to discipline. A typical day begins with breakfast as early as 7:30 a.m. and concludes with curfew at 10:30 p.m. Evening and weekend activities include special programs such as concerts, lectures by visiting scholars, dramatic and musical productions, movies, and workshops.

Is there free time?

A small portion of the daily schedule provides for free time. Students may prepare work, read, write letters, do laundry, etc. This time is limited, so students should be prepared to make the most of it.

What kinds of recreational and social events are planned?

Many different recreational activities are provided in which students are expected to participate. Students will often have an opportunity to learn an activity that is new to them. Some events are planned for the enjoyment of the students and to assure a balance of activities. Dances, picnics, athletic events, hikes, canoeing, variety shows, etc., are examples of the social events. Informal, small-group discussions are often found in progress during free time in the lounges or on the lawns. Host sites have been selected based on their ability to provide a variety of recreational activities. RAs typically assist student athletes in their required training regimes. However, different athletic and recreation facilities are available at each site. Student athletes are encouraged to contact the director to determine the kinds of training support that may be available.

Are there field trips?

Various field trips may be planned to augment the artistic, academic, and cultural program. A humanities class might visit the State Capitol and an arts class might visit a museum or a specific gallery. Field trips may not be practical for all classes, but when possible, they are incorporated for the fulfillment of the mission of the individual program.

Are grades and credit granted?

Students receive Certificates of Commendation at the close of each program. Reports on individual student participation and course descriptions may be sent to the high schools of those students who complete the program and participate in the closing ceremonies; not all programs provide such reports. Check with the director to determine if and when such reports will be sent to the students' high schools. Copies of those reports may be secured by contacting the student's high school guidance office in October following the student's participation in the program.

Who is eligible to attend these programs?

The programs are structured to serve students who are highly capable, well motivated, and who desire a challenging and rigorous summer experience. Students who are tenth- or eleventh-grade students during school year 2007-2008 and whose parent/legal guardian resides in the Commonwealth of Virginia, and who are eligible for a free, public education in Virginia are eligible to apply. (For more information regarding residency, please refer to Superintendent's Informational Memorandum Number 140, issued by the Virginia Department of Education on July 27, 2007, available at the following Web site:

www.doe.virginia.gov/VDOE/suptsmemos/2007/inf140.html.) Applicants must be identified (or be eligible to be identified) as academically gifted, and their overall achievement in schoolwork must meet application criteria. See page 2 of this document for additional criteria.

What is the application process?

Students should complete the academic application or the mentorship application, as appropriate. The visual and performing arts program has a separate application and timeline. Students should contact their school counselor for the appropriate application. Information is also available at the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) Web site indicated on the first page of this document.

Instructors, school representatives, or peers may identify students as eligible to complete applications. Students may also identify themselves as eligible. Most students apply directly through their guidance counselor or the school's designated Summer Residential Governor's School coordinator. Some larger divisions hold an intermediate screening or adjudication to narrow the pool of applicants to the divisions' quotas. The school division or private school region then selects its nominees from that pool of interested and qualified applicants. The completed applications for the nominated students, in rank order, are then forwarded to the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE). Applications sent by students or parents directly to the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) will be returned immediately to the division/region gifted education coordinator. However, the Department is not responsible if such applications subsequently are not processed by the school division or the regional committee.

Are these programs open to home-schooled students?

Home-schooled students must submit a completed application to the principal of the appropriate high school in their division of residence. These applications then become part of the division's application and screening process. The chief administrative officer of the school division in which they reside must nominate home-schooled students.

Are these programs open to Virginia students who attend schools in other states?

Students who attend private schools outside Virginia but whose parent(s)/legal guardian(s) resides in Virginia should contact the Office of Middle/High School Instruction (SRGS@doe.virginia.gov) for more information. It is imperative that these students make direct contact with the Department as soon as possible for consideration.

How will participants be selected?

Public school division superintendents nominate students from each division. Students from accredited Virginia private schools will be nominated by a designated regional committee.

Final selection is made by the Department of Education and is based on the strength of the application, school division/private school region ranking, and needs of the program as indicated previously. No individual nominee is guaranteed acceptance. Each school division and private school region is guaranteed representation in one of the academic programs unless the division or region does not nominate a person for either the agriculture; humanities; life sciences and medicine; or mathematics, science, and technology programs. No guaranteed placement is possible with the mentorship programs, since those one-to-one assignments are predicated on a match with the mentors available in the current summer.

When and how will students be notified of the selection?

All nominated students will receive a letter regarding status mailed by the Department of Education by mid-April 2008. Status lists for all nominees will be sent to school divisions, regional coordinators, and heads of private schools in mid-April 2008, prior to their release to students.

NOTE: Each school division and private school is responsible for providing specific information in February 2008, to **students who apply but are not nominated for state-level consideration**. Those students must be provided written notice by the school division or private school that their applications are not being forwarded to the Department for further consideration.

Where does one get additional information about the Governor's School program?

The gifted education coordinator in your school division, high school principals, heads of private schools, secondary school counselors, or the VDOE can provide details about the program. Contact information for the gifted education coordinators for each of the 132 school divisions may be accessed at the following Web site:

www.doe.virginia.gov/VDOE/Instruction/Gifted/gectable.pdf

What is the cost to participants?

The cost of tuition, room and board, academic/artistic field trips, and other academic/artistic activities planned for the program will be paid from state and local funds. The 2008 tuitions for the academic program are provided below. The school division that nominates a student stipulates that it will pay its share of the tuition. The local share is determined by the school division's current ability-to-pay composite index.

Private schools are responsible for the local share of the tuition cost for their nominated students and the individual private school must stipulate its financial responsibility on the tuition certification form. The local share for private schools is 50 percent of the tuition cost.

2008 Program Tuitions	Full Tuition Costs Not to Exceed	Private School Portion of the Tuition Not to Exceed 50 Percent
Agriculture (AG)	\$2,000	\$1,000
Humanities (HUM)	\$1,742	\$ 871
Life Sciences and Medicine (LSM)	\$2,667	\$1,334
Mathematics, Science, and Technology (MST)	\$1,472	\$ 736
Mentorships in Engineering and Marine Science (NASA.NIA or VIMS)	\$2,947	\$1,474

Each student must provide his/her own spending money and transportation to and from the program. Program directors will provide students and parents with an estimate of spending money required for the four weeks. In the event a student cannot afford these expenses, the school division or private school is encouraged to assist the student with these expenses.

Where will participants be housed?

Participants in the humanities program will live in the facilities at the University of Richmond. Participants in the agriculture program are housed in the dormitories at Virginia Tech. Life Sciences and Medicine participants are housed on Virginia Commonwealth University's academic campus. Lynchburg College provides housing for the Mathematics, Science, and Technology students. Meals will be provided in the dining halls of the universities. Participants in the NASA.NIA and VIMS mentorship programs are housed at Christopher Newport University and are transported daily to their study sites.

Will recreational facilities be available to participants?

Yes. Supervised recreational activities will be available on a limited basis. All students will be expected to participate. Facilities differ across the host campuses. Students who need specific, continuous training activities or facilities should contact the program director or the Department to determine if those facilities or opportunities are available. Student athletes must be chaperoned during these activities and may not participate in training activities at local high schools.

What other services will be provided for participants?

Professionally licensed guidance counselors, who live on-site in the larger programs, provide counseling and are members of the program's instructional staff. Medical services have been arranged through local services. The humanities and visual and performing arts programs have a full-time nurse on staff.

Security, which is a major concern with the Department of Education and the host site, is coordinated through the college/university security office. Other necessary services will be provided for participants. Accommodations are made for individuals with disabilities; please contact the Department for more information concerning those arrangements.

Will participants be granted a leave of absence from the program?

Since time is limited and sequential activities are planned for each day of the session, any absence significantly compromises the student's experience at the Governor's School. Students are expected to arrive in time for the opening ceremonies (see page 4) and to stay through the closing ceremonies. During its session, the only leaves of absence that will be considered are for cases of family or medical emergencies as defined on page 7 of this document.

NOTE: Applicants - Please honor the dates that are established for submission of your application. Do not send applications directly to the Department of Education. **The Department does not override the decisions made by the school division or the private school regional committees.**

- ✓ Take the SAT, PSAT, PSSS, or ACT tests since these scores may be used in the application process.
- ✓ Have someone who is familiar with the terms in the scoring rubric read your speech/essay and give you feedback before it is turned in with the completed application.
- ✓ Limit your entries on the Experience/Activities/Honors page to what is requested. BE AS SPECIFIC AS POSSIBLE since the selection committees are not always cognizant of local and/or regional activities in each academic area.
- ✓ Please review the last page of the application, the academic scores page. It will indicate the points awarded for your activities, research, and awards; two teacher rating scales and narratives; essay; test scores; course difficulty; and unweighted grade point average. If you have questions regarding how those points are computed, please contact the school or division gifted education coordinator for further information.

The Virginia Department of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities. The following position has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the Department's non-discrimination policies: Chief Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction, Virginia Department of Education, P.O. Box 2120, Richmond, VA 23231-2120, (804) 225-2979.

For further information on Federal non-discrimination regulations, contact the Office for Civil Rights at OCR.DC@ed.gov or call 1(800) 421-3481.

You may also view [Executive Order 1 \(2006\)](http://www.governor.virginia.gov/initiatives/ExecutiveOrders/2006/EO_1.cfm), (http://www.governor.virginia.gov/initiatives/ExecutiveOrders/2006/EO_1.cfm) which specifically prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, sex, color, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, age, political affiliation, or against otherwise qualified persons with disabilities. The policy permits appropriate employment preferences for veterans and specifically prohibits discrimination against veterans. You may obtain additional information at the Commonwealth of Virginia's [official Web site](http://www.virginia.gov/cmsportal2/) (<http://www.virginia.gov/cmsportal2/>) concerning this equal opportunity policy.